

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

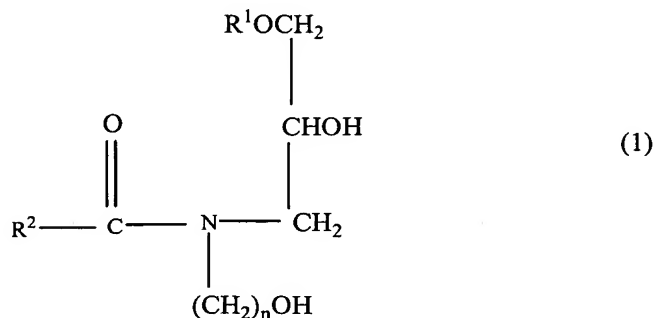
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic composition, comprising:

0.01 to 60% by weight of one or more ~~components~~ lipids contained in the stratum corneum and analogs thereof said lipids being selected from the group consisting of lipids contained in the stratum corneum and analogs thereof natural ceramides, ceramide analogs and fatty acid esters of steroids, based on a total weight of said cosmetic composition; and

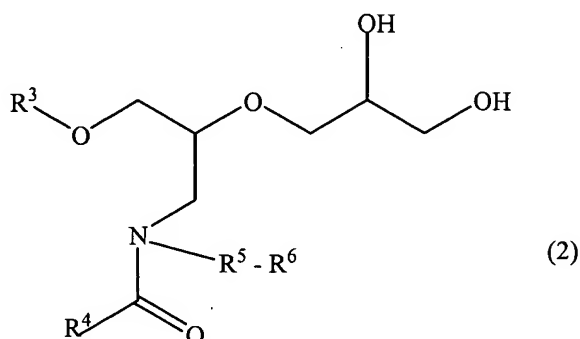
0.05 to 20% by weight of a terpene component selected from the group consisting of α -pinene, β -pinene, camphene, limonene, β -caryophyllene, α -terpineol, borneol, nopol, isobornylcyclohexanol, santalol, cedrol, guaiol, vetiverol and patchouli alcohol, based on a total weight of said cosmetic composition.

Claim 2 (Canceled):

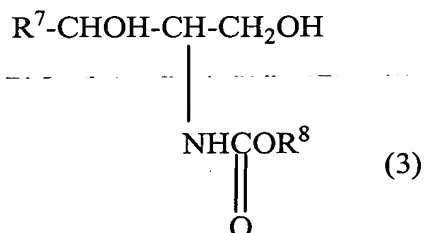
Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the lipids contained in the stratum corneum are ceramide analogs ~~represented by the general~~ selected from the group consisting of formulae (1), (2), (3) and (4):



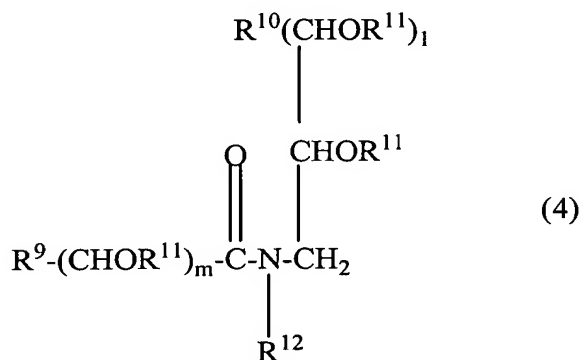
wherein R^1 is a hydrocarbon group having 10 to 26 carbon atoms, R^2 is a hydrocarbon group having 9 to 25 carbon atoms, and n is a number of 2 to 6;



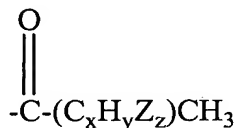
wherein R^3 and R^4 are the same or different from each other and are, independently, a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 40 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated, R^5 is an alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a single bond, and R^6 is a hydrogen atom, an alkoxy group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a 2,3-dihydroxypropyloxy group, with the proviso that R^6 is a hydrogen atom when R^5 is a single bond;



wherein R^7 is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 11 to 21 carbon atoms, and R^8 is a hydrocarbon group having 3 to 30 carbon atoms; and

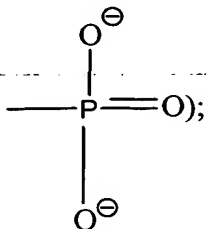


wherein R^9 is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 49 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated, phosphorylated or sulfated, or a sub-substituent group, $-(C_aH_b)-O-Y$ with (Y being a hydrogen atom or a fatty acid residue having 14 to 22 carbon atoms represented by the following formula:

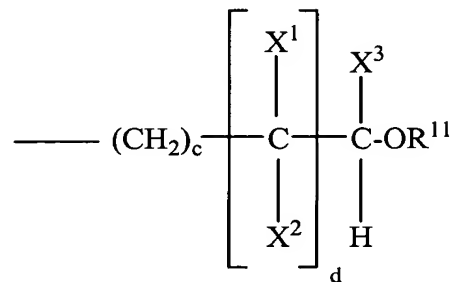


(wherein Z is $-OH$, $-OP_1$, $-OSO_3^-$ or epoxy oxygen, x is a number of 12 to 20, y is a number of 20 to 40, and z is a number of 0 to 4), and a is a number of 7 to 49, and b is a number of 10 to 98);

wherein R^{10} is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 28 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated, phosphorylated or sulfated, R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a saccharide residue, a sulfuric acid residue or a phosphoric acid residue P_1 wherein (P_1 being is a group)



R^{12} is a hydrogen atom or a sub-substituent group:



(wherein X^1 , X^2 and X^3 are, independently, a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated, c is a number of 0 to 4, d is 0 or 1, and R^{11} has the same meaning as defined above); and

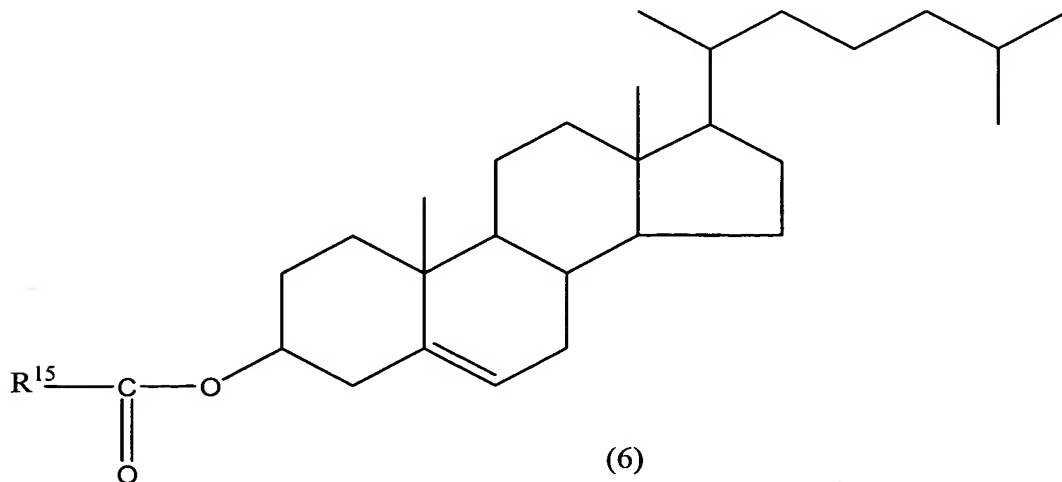
l and m are independently, 0 or 1, with the proviso that $1 + m$ is 1 or 2 when the number of carbon atoms in R^9 is 9 to 49.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The cosmetic composition according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims~~ Claim 1 to 3, wherein the terpene component is selected from the group consisting of santalol, cedrol, guaiaol, vetiverol and patchouli alcohol.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The cosmetic composition according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims~~ Claim 1 to 4, wherein the terpene component is an extract, a steam distilled product or a pressed product of a plant.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic composition, comprising:
one or more components selected from the group consisting of lipids contained in the stratum corneum and analogs thereof, and
cedrol.

Claim 7 (New): The cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein the fatty acid esters of steroids are represented by the following formula (6)



wherein R¹⁵ is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated.

Claim 8 (New): The cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein an amount of said lipid is 0.05 to 40% by weight, based on a total weight of said cosmetic composition.

Claim 9 (New): The cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein an amount of said lipid is 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on a total weight of said cosmetic composition.

Claim 10 (New): The cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein an amount of said terpene component is 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on a total weight of said cosmetic composition.

Claim 11 (New): The cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein an amount of said terpene component is 1 to 10% by weight, based on a total weight of said cosmetic composition.

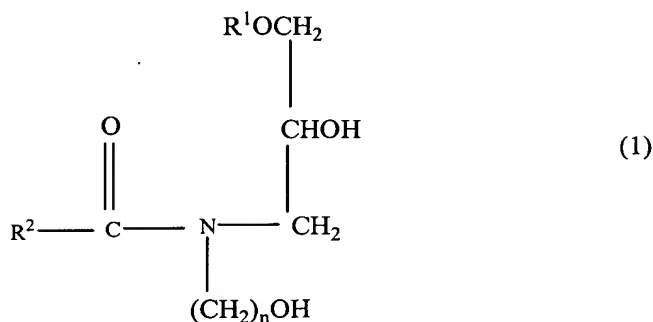
Claim 12 (New): A method for improvement of skin qualities, comprising:
contacting skin with said cosmetic composition according to Claim 1.

Claim 13 (New): A method for ameliorating chapped skin, comprising:
contacting skin with said cosmetic composition according to Claim 1.

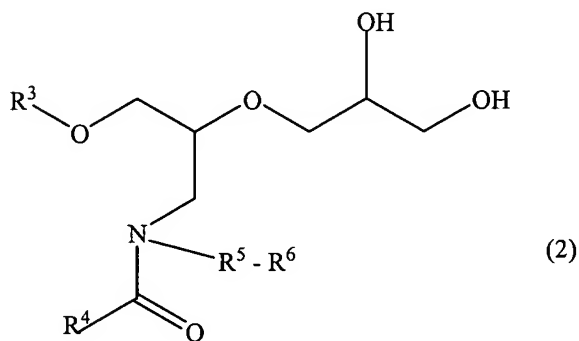
Claim 14 (New): A method for ameliorating roughened skin, comprising:
contacting skin with said cosmetic composition according to Claim 1.

Claim 15 (New): The cosmetic composition according to Claim 6, wherein said lipids are selected from the group consisting of natural ceramides, ceramide analogs and fatty acid esters of steroids.

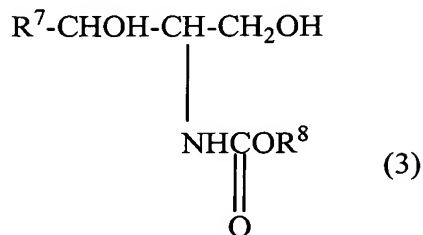
Claim 16 (New) The cosmetic composition according to Claim 6, wherein the lipids contained in the stratum corneum are ceramide analogs selected from the group consisting of formulae (1), (2), (3) and (4):



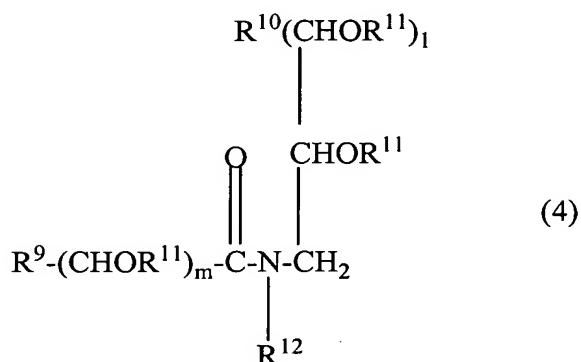
wherein R^1 is a hydrocarbon group having 10 to 26 carbon atoms, R^2 is a hydrocarbon group having 9 to 25 carbon atoms, and n is a number of 2 to 6;



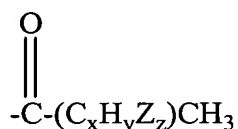
wherein R^3 and R^4 are the same or different from each other and are, independently, a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 40 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated, R^5 is an alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a single bond, and R^6 is a hydrogen atom, an alkoxy group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms or a 2,3-dihydroxypropyloxy group, with the proviso that R^6 is a hydrogen atom when R^5 is a single bond;



wherein R^7 is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 11 to 21 carbon atoms, and R^8 is a hydrocarbon group having 3 to 30 carbon atoms; and

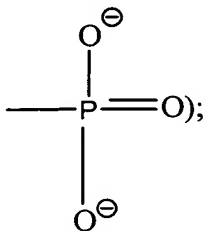


wherein R^9 is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 49 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated, phosphorylated or sulfated, or a sub-substituent group, $\text{-(C}_a\text{H}_b\text{)-O-Y}$ with Y being a hydrogen atom or a fatty acid residue having 14 to 22 carbon atoms represented by the following formula:

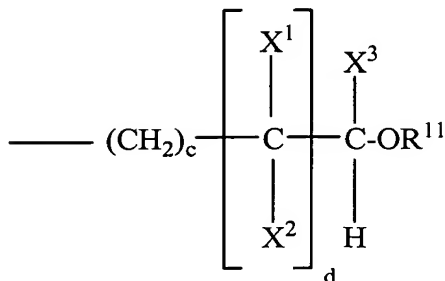


wherein Z is -OH , -OP_1 , -OSO_3^- or epoxy oxygen, x is a number of 12 to 20, y is a number of 20 to 40, and z is a number of 0 to 4, and a is a number of 7 to 49, and b is a number of 10 to 98;

wherein R^{10} is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 1 to 28 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated, phosphorylated or sulfated, R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a saccharide residue, a sulfuric acid residue or a phosphoric acid residue P_1 wherein P_1 is a group



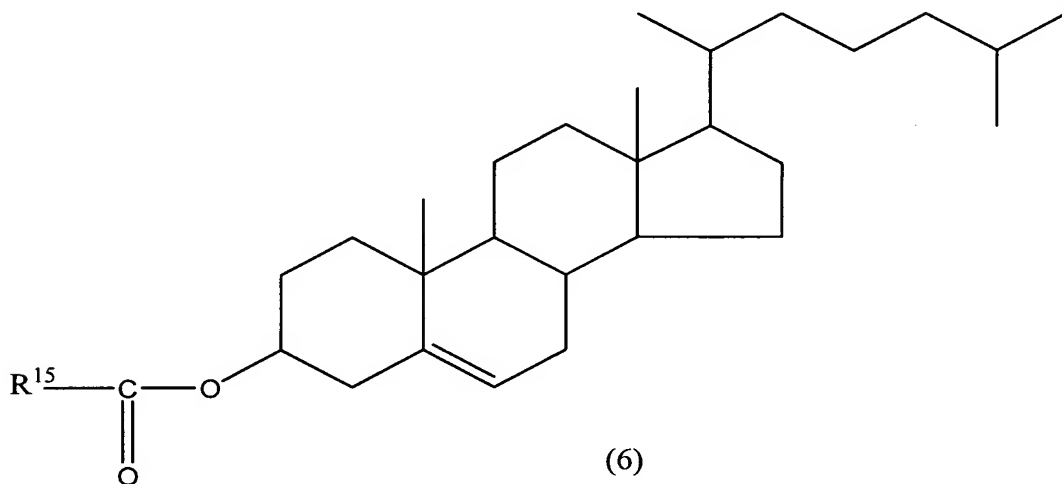
R¹² is a hydrogen atom or a sub-substituent group:



wherein X¹, X² and X³ are, independently, a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated, c is a number of 0 to 4, d is 0 or 1, and R¹¹ has the same meaning as defined above; and

l and m are independently, 0 or 1, with the proviso that $l + m$ is 1 or 2 when the number of carbon atoms in R^9 is 9 to 49.

Claim 17 (New): The cosmetic composition according to Claim 6, wherein said lipids are fatty acid esters of steroids represented by the following formula (6)



wherein R¹⁵ is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 25 carbon atoms, which may be hydroxylated.

Claim 18 (New): A method for improvement of skin qualities, comprising:
contacting skin with said cosmetic composition according to Claim 6.

Claim 19 (New): A method for ameliorating chapped skin, comprising:
contacting skin with said cosmetic composition according to Claim 6.

Claim 20 (New): A method for ameliorating roughened skin, comprising:
contacting skin with said cosmetic composition according to Claim 6.